

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending herein.

I. The anticipation rejections based on Matsumoto et al. (US 6,523,948 B2).

The USPTO respectfully rejects Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Matsumoto et al ("Matsumoto").

A main feature of the claimed invention is to detect a temperature and/or humidity adjacent to a recording medium, and to control an illumination of light based on the detected result.

As the Examiner points out, Matsumoto teaches a temperature sensor to detect environmental temperature, and also describes an ultraviolet ray emitter unit that is adjustable intensity or amount of the rays for controlling the intensity or amount of ultraviolet rays.

However, the technique of Matsumoto detects the environmental temperature or humidity, and the detected result is applied to heating elements to control the heating temperature of the heating elements. Thus, the technique of Matsumoto differs from the present claims at least because in the present claims the temperature and/or humidity adjacent to a recording medium are detected and controls the illumination of light.

Furthermore, in Matsumoto, the intensity or amount of ultraviolet rays is controlled according to an ejected amount of an ink droplet.

Thus, independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Matsumoto.

II. Further explanation.

When the ink deposited on an object is to be cured, ink properties are susceptible to temperature and humidity, and the ink is sometimes not cured sufficiently. In order to solve the problem, in the present invention, the illumination of light to be irradiated is changed according to the temperature or the humidity so that the deposited ink can be cured without influence from the temperature or the humidity.

As described above, Applicant asserts that, while Matsumoto describes an inkjet printer that detects environmental temperature to control the heating temperature, it does not

teach (or suggest) detecting the temperature or the humidity for controlling the illumination of ultraviolet rays as claimed in claim 1. Thus, the present invention is not the same as Matsumoto's and not obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

III. Claim rejections based on Matsumoto et al. (US 6,523,948 B2) in view of Ohta et al. (US 6,211,265 B1).

The USPTO respectfully rejects Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Matsumoto et al. in view of Ohta et al. Claim 11 is a dependent claim.

Claim 1 is believed to be allowable as discussed above at sections I. and II. in view of the primary reference Matsumoto. The addition of Ohta does not make up for the deficiencies of Matsumoto, and the combination does not teach all of the limitations of claim 1, thus the combination does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness as required by MPEP 706.02(j) citing 35 U.S.C. § 103.

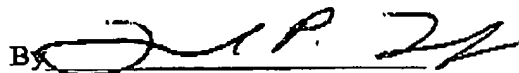
IV. Conclusion.

Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Please contact the undersigned for any reason. Applicants seek to cooperate with the Examiner including via telephone if convenient for the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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